Lillian & Harold Weisberg
Coq d'Or Press ~~HYATTSTOWN, MD. 20734~~ Route 8, Frederick, Md.
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Copy to Burton

Dear Maggie,

I very much regret you felt you could not let me know about what Jaffee had told you ([illegible]), for knowing it earlier might have made a difference. There is now so much preoccupation with immediate trial preparations the time that can be devoted to this is much less. However, Ray did tell me much. The enclosed copy of a letter to Gary Schoener is, I think, self-explanatory.

Of those present when you collectively questioned Jaffe at your home of whom Ray told me I remember you, Burton, both [illegible] and Lillian. Perhaps there were others. In any event, it is without doubt that either one who was there or one who got a very accurate account of what there transpired told Lifton. I feel that with this knowledge you can isolate the leak. Whoever it was is, from his own description, secretly sympathetic to him and secretly unfriendly to you. He went so far in bragging to Schoener as to say there are people there who shun him in public and pretend to be unsympathetic to him to shield the opposite. Knowing that this may sow suspicion where it may not be warranted, I nonetheless feel I must tell you, for I regard Lifton as a great potential menace, without regard for whatever his intent may be, if he knows it. He also apparently knows much about your previous trips to France, your meetings with [illegible], etc. If you want copies of the letters, let me know and I'll get permission to send them to you.

Please think about what I pose to Gary: If Lifton told the truth, it is frightful; but if he lied in saying he made X available, is it not even worse? I have communicated this to Jim and Lou, as the enclosed reports.

I tried to phone you last night. You were not in. If you fear using your phone (I went to a pay phone I never before used), please pick one where I can call you, give me the number, and in 15 minutes I will. Perhaps the other phone, your daughter's, would be better?

The first big battle will be in a few hours, when the change of venue argument is made. Last night Jim estimated that would take but a couple of hours, that they would not call witnesses. However, were I the other side, I would not spring this play at this time if I were aware of it. That I would hold for a more dramatic moment, one of greater urgency, one with a much larger audience than this pro forma thing would get. The media are making elaborate preparations for coverage, with mockups of the court in their studios, etc. As the Loomans affidavit indicates, it is not necessary to presume the closest connections between the Shaw defense and the media. Also, using it now would be using it for nothing, because they have to assume the possibility their move will succeed, and they have to give themselves the use its rejection can, on appeal. I think this is the real purpose of these motions. He expects them not to be granted.

I rushed to the post office last night to get the Hepburn-Topas memo in the mail to you. I bumped into the clerk behind the p.o. (the windows here close at 5 p.m., noon Saturdays, closed Sundays) who had just received your certified mailing of the pamphlets. He kindly gave them to me. I have not yet had time to look at them but I will in the next few days and will return. Thanks. Those things mentioned in your note have not yet arrived. They may today. We have but a single delivery a day in the country. It gets here about 11 a.m. There is no special delivery at all. Also, while for most purposes certified is sufficient protection and does not require going to the p.o., the only or the closest to real protection isxxxxtixfixmx registration. There is less chance of interception and delay with registration, for of it there must be a written record of every hand in which it is. This, of course, may slow it down a little. But it also discourages interception, for each handler can be isolated. As an example of what can happen with certified mail, my load was getting too heavy after I left California and had been in New Orleans, I wanted some of my papers safely out of my bag, which then, withouth them, weighted 35 pounds. Also, I had a copy of the WDSU Oswald film and wanted that in the hands of a friend who would make stills from it for me. Louis promised to have them sent registered for me. Each was delayed a full week, over the time required in transit. That would not have happened with registered mail.

Returning to the Lopez thing, with Steve a journalism major, I suggest either he or someone he can trust, or he using the name of someone he can trust, should write McGraw-Hill, the original publisher, or Bantam, the reprinter, tell them he is making a case study of a best seller for his journalism paper, that he also wants to try and do a story on it for sale, and ask for duplicate copies of all their publicity material and anything else they can send or xx refer him to. He should ask for sales figures, time in preparation of manuscript and in publishing, editing, how Uris stumbled onto the fact, which did not become public until after the work appeared, and any pictures they can supply, and biographical material on the real-life principals. He should use a college return address if possible, but not that of the Committee. If using another name would result in the delay of even a couple of days, I urge that he use his own. I do think this should be done as fast as possible. If they send two copies, then there is no need for copying one for me. I have, this way, been able to get some things about the Youngblood in The Devil to Pay, including picture, now being copied for me. A student did it for me. First of all, if the pictures are of familiar faces, you will know. Second, I know people I can trust to whom I can show them. I also have some checks in the works now, by others. If they are productive, I will let you know.

If there is anything else you have not let me know, I wish you would. Once the trial is closer, I'll be able to do less. As of now, there is no one else to do anything about this for our own purposes of for countermeasure in the trial. If there is anything you do not want me to pass on to Lou, the only one I wouldbe certain to, please specify. He will not be in a position to do anything, but I feel he should know this sort of thing. I should know what Jeffe did say, in detail, if in a dub of the tape if not in writing. If you have not sent Lou a dub of the tape, please send it to me and I will take it with me. If you have sent it to him, rest assured he has not listened to it. He just doesn't have time. There is also the hazard that when there is a rush, the tape will by accident be reused! That has happened to some of my best. I now never give him anything but a dub. There has been only one recent exception, and in six weeks he has not dubbed and returned it.

I have decided to send you the enclosed. Please, when you understand what it says, tell no one at all. I will tell only them person from whom I got it, no one else. Then we'll see. I am doing this early in the morning. If I can, I'll go over the panoplies and see if I can return them herewith. Many thanks for them. I hope we do not need their content, but it is best to have it.

I'll rey and keep you posted on aything that may be of interest and importance.

Sincerely,